No Offensive Missiles In Cuba, U.S. Asserts

Post 2/20/66

United States intelligence experts believe that no offensive Soviet missiles have been brought into Cuba since the missile crisis of 1962, the White House said yesterday.

Bill D. Moyers, the White House press secretary, said that reports of offensive weapons in Cuba are carefully checked through American intelligence systems.

"It is the judgment of the U.S. intelligence community that no offensive missiles have been introduced into Cuba since they were withdrawn in 1962," Moyers said.

Moyers made the carefully-worded statement when questioned about a report by Spruille Braden, former U.S. Ambassador to Cuba, that the Soviet Union recently had unloaded missiles at a spot 28 miles from Havana.

Braden spoke at a Cuban exile rally in Miami Friday night. He would not reveal the source of his information and would not specify whether the missiles were reported to be offensive or defensive weapons.

Government sources said that defensive surface-to-air missiles are routinely replaced in Cuba. The defensive weapons have a limited "shelf life" and are replaced from time to time, the sources said.

Soviet offensive missiles and launching sites were dismantled and removed after the October, 1962, confrontation between the U.S. and Russia.

Braden said he had reported his information to President Johnson. Moyers said he could find no trace of such a report.

President Johnson met yesterday with Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara on issues that ranged from Vietnam to the Dominican Republic, Moyers said. He met Friday night with advisers to review developments in the Dominican Republic, the press secretary added.

Moyers had no comment on Rusk's siuggestion in Senate testimony Friday that Congress might want to vote on a new resolution to test support for the Administration's actions in Vietnam.